

A show cause notice was issued on 25.11.2010 to M/s. Lavasa Corporation Limited with the direction to show cause within 15 days of the receipt of the notice as to why the following directions may not be made final:

(i) the unauthorized structures erected without any Environmental Clearance between 18.3.2004 till 7.7.2004, from 7.7.2004 till 14.9.2006 under Environment Impact Notification, 1994 and further constructions carried out after the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 by M/s. Lavasa Corporation Limited in Mulshi and Velhe Talukas, District Pune, Maharashtra be removed forthwith in entirety.

(ii) Pending, decision on the show cause notice the *status quo* ante for construction/development as on date should be maintained.

The *status quo* was further confirmed in the final directions issued on 17.01.2011. The stay order on the construction still exists as on date.

(c) and (d) M/s. Lavasa Corporation Ltd. has submitted a proposal for environmental clearance for an area of 2000 hectares on 02.02.2011 and the project was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held on 14th - 15th February, 2011. The additional information sought is still awaited.

Establishment of environment court

629. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has earlier proposed to set up an environment court to hear all ecology related grievances, including those against State clearances to industrial projects;

(b) whether Government has also proposed to establish the National Green Tribunal (NGT); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry had earlier proposed to establish a National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal, Act 1995. The Act provided for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident while handling any hazardous substance and for providing relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment resulting from such accidents. However, the National Environment Tribunal could not become functional.

The National Green Tribunal has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith. The Chairperson of the Tribunal has been appointed. Consequent on coming into effect of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, the National Environment Tribunal Act stands repealed.

Environmental clearance to pending projects

630. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has imposed a go no go policy for coal mining resulting in no new projects getting clearance in the last one year;

(b) if so, whether this move has stuck key power projects and several road highway projects passing through wildlife sanctuaries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government has proposed to provide all clearance to complete the pending projects without harming nation's wildlife and forest areas; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests through Forest Survey of India (FSI) and the Ministry of Coal through Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) have jointly undertaken an exercise to overlay the forest cover map on the coal block boundaries in respect of 9 coalfields in the country and identified various coal blocks as category 'A' (No-Go) and Category 'B' (Go). As per this exercise, 153 coal blocks covering about 2.68 lakh ha have been categorized as category 'A' and 449 blocks covering about 3.80 lakh ha have been categorized as category 'B' out of total number of 602 coal blocks covering about 6.48 lakh ha.

The categorization of forest land as 'Go' and 'No-Go' was limited to coal blocks only having its implications for some thermal power projects. The details of the thermal power projects, thus impacted and under consideration, are given in Statement (See below). This has, however, no effect on road highway projects.